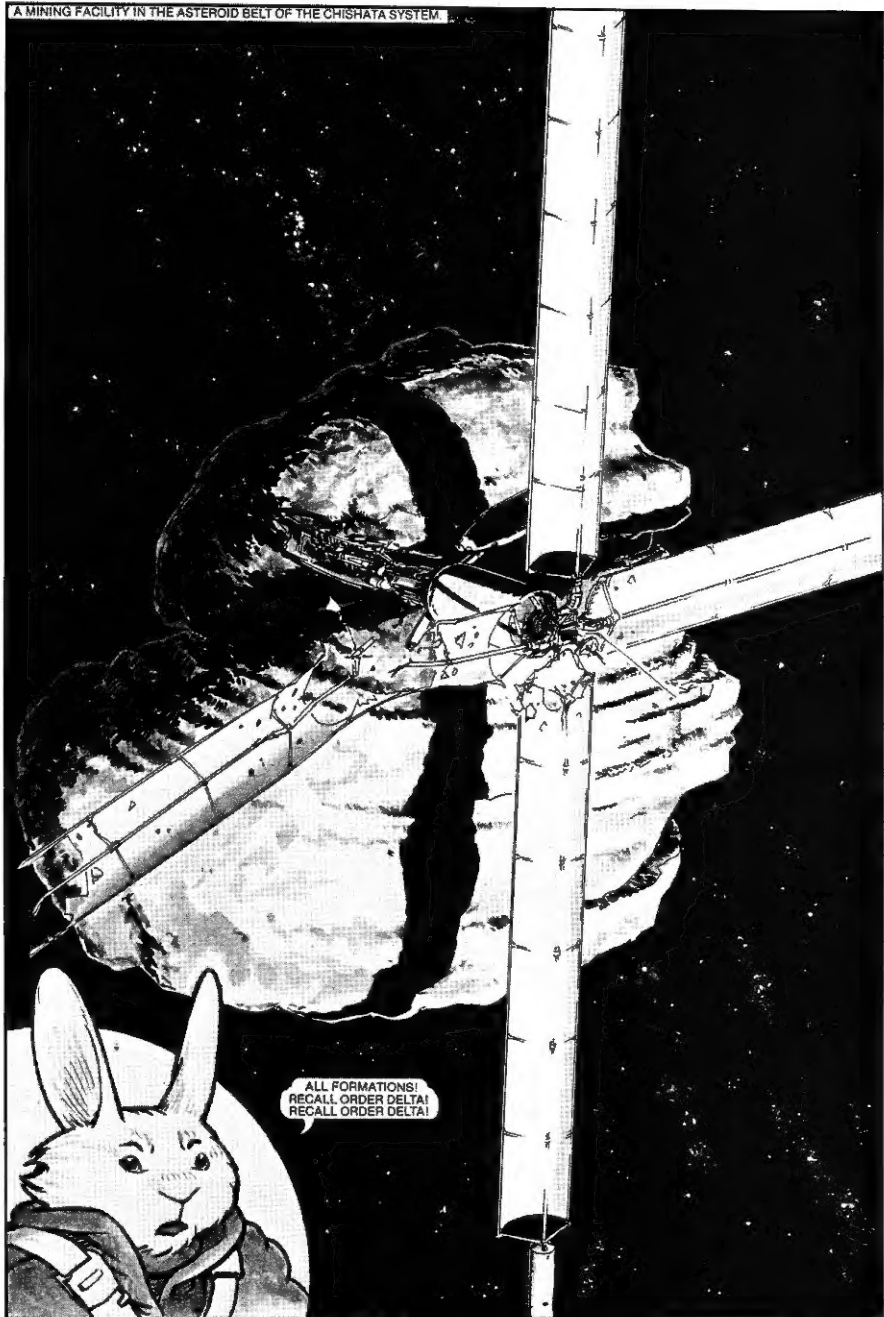


A MINING FACILITY IN THE ASTEROID BELT OF THE CHISHATA SYSTEM.



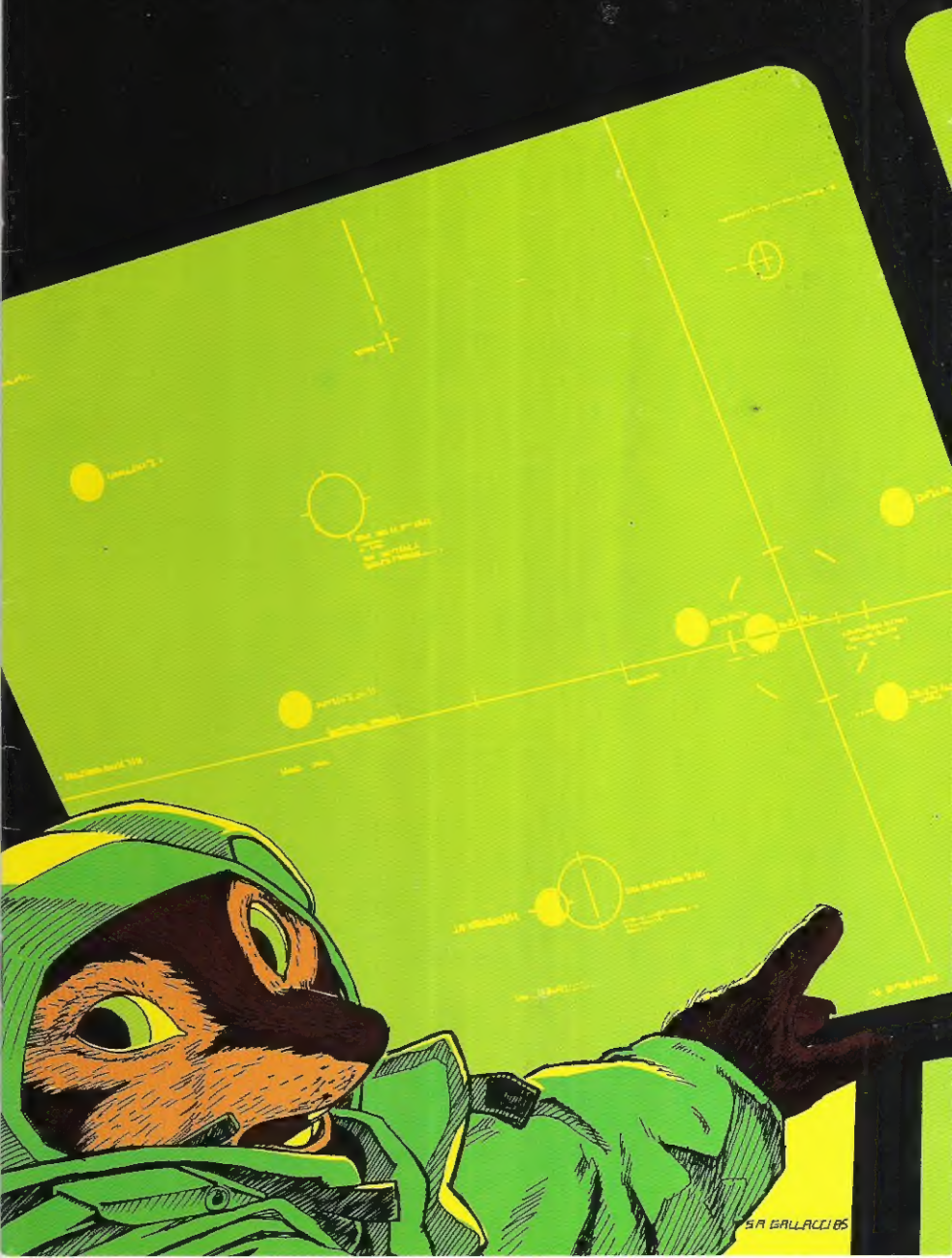




ALBEDO

NR 3
\$2.00

ANTHROPOMORPHICS



Back again, two months late and probably a couple of kilobucks in the hole by the time anyone gets to read this. It was just going to be a little semi-pro self published kind of thing. Ya know? Short runs, low budgets, no real deadlines. But NOooo!

I had to be all fancy and professional about it, careful with the printing, get some respectable contributors, solicit distributors. Now see where that's left me. Thousands of ravening fans, wholesale fortunes at stake, the lives and careers of men and women across the country on the brink of oblivion at my slightest misstep. And all I get is hyperacidity and crummy reviews.

Ohwell. Whine, whine, whine.

I got that new kind of flu that makes one feel achy and sore and generally miserable all over — makes one stupid, too, and that's primarily why 3 is late. I've got my end of it down now to the point where I can hack this sucker out in — I don't know — couple hundred hours or so. But with a full-time job and don't forget this disease, it takes weeks to do what might take only days, if the opportunity allowed.

Enough of such and on to the future. Boy, that's a toughy. Well, barring disaster, there will be a fourth issue, wrapping up the Usagi mini-epic and the Chishata incident. Printing dates are hard to say. I'm getting better at this but at the same time all manner of obstacles seem to jump up and say Boo! Hopefully by the end of June, for I'll be at a comics con in Vancouver, B.C. And number five? Probably in time for San Diego. Wouldn't that be nice? Then there's six and seven and . . . And if that wasn't enough, I'm gearing up for a second title. A sort of Sword and sorcery kind of thing called SWORDDANCER. I'll be writing and doing some of the art but the bulk of the visual end will be grunted out by Steve Adams, another Seattle area cartoonist. It'll be coming out as often as possible, at least quarterly, if not bi-monthly. Unfortunately, it as well as future issues of ALBEDO will have a higher cover price, probably \$2.00. But they'll all be at least 32 pagers. And since we're talking about money, if you want to make sure you're going to get everything as soon as it comes out, I'll live dangerously and start handling subscriptions. But to be on the safe side, make it just the next three issues at a time, so say \$6.00 for such, which also gets first class mailing. Such a deal. And make sure I can read your writing and know which three issues you want.

Here's the official ALBEDO T-shirts. \$7.00 will get one an Erma Felna, EDF Pilot or an ALBEDO, More Than Just Funny Animals cotton/poly black on light blue T-shirt. Specify your size, of course. Other products will be announced in the next issue.

Steven A. Gallacci
P.O. Box 19419
Queen Anne Station
Seattle, WA 98109

ALBEDO

ANTHROPOMORPHICS



MORE THAN JUST FUNNY ANIMALS

Erma Felna

WITH THE REPUBLICAN ACTION ON DERZON THREE MONTHS AND FIFTY
LIGHT-YEARS BEHIND HER, ERMA FELNA FINDS HERSELF ON EKOSIAK AS
AN EDF/HOMEGUARD CONSOLIDATED TACTICAL COMBAT INSTRUCTOR.



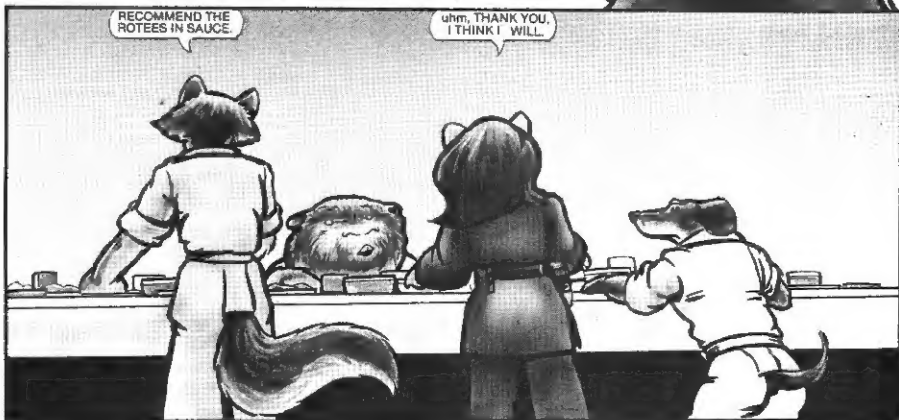
©1985 S.A. GALLARCI



THEN THERE ...

... BUT I HAD A ...

... THERE WAS ...



THE COLONEL IS IN SYMPATHY
WITH THE SEPARATISTS?



AYE, BUT CONSTITUTIONAL
LIKE US ALL.



NOTHIN' AGIN' THE
CONFEDERATION...
EXCEPT...

WE'RE SELF-SUFFICIENT,
AUTONOMOUS IN ALL BUT NAME.
TA DRAW US INTO CONFLICT...
AS EQUAL ALLIES IS ONE THING,
AS COLONIAL CANNON FODDER...



uhm, I SEE, AND THE EXTREMISTS FORCE
POLARIZATION AND PRECLUDE A UNIFIED
INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT.

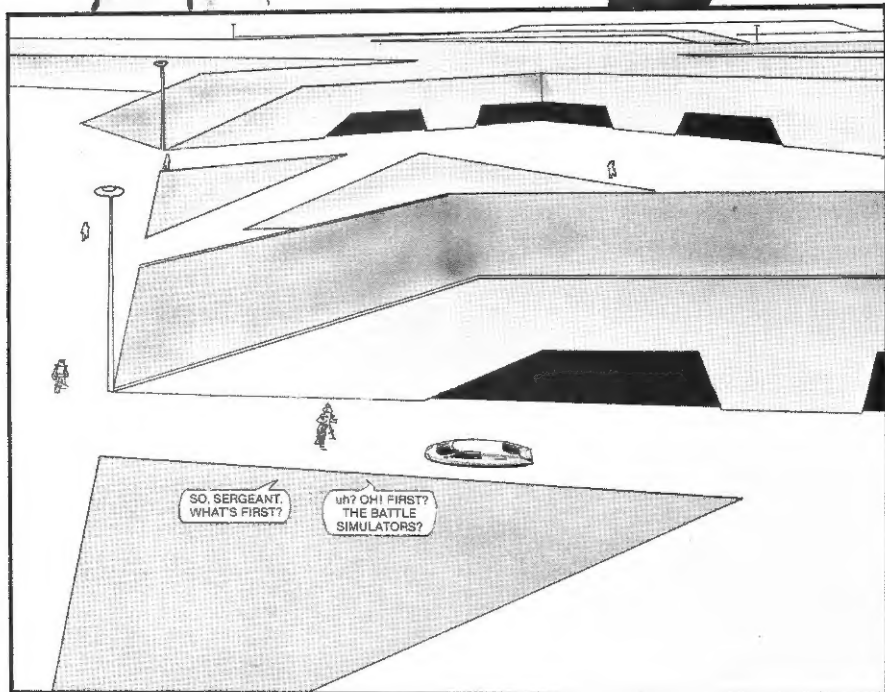


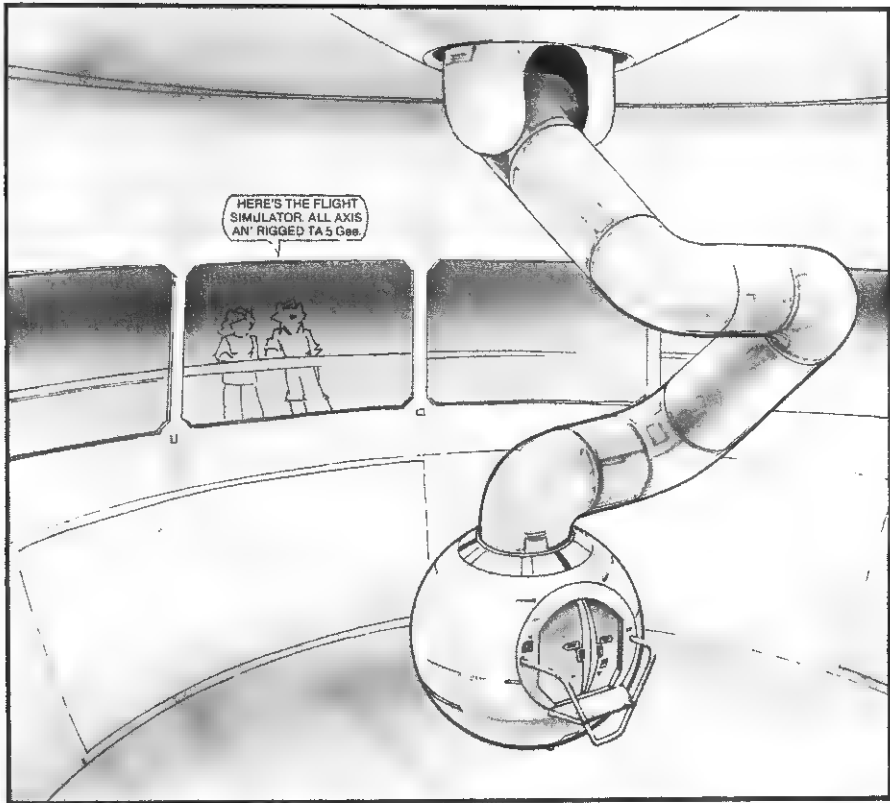
THAT'S, THAT'S IT EXACTLY.

I'M NOT AS POLITICALLY NAIVE AS
MOST WOULD THINK. NOR AM I HERE
TO INFLECT EDF CONTROL OVER YOUR
HOMEGUARD FORCES.







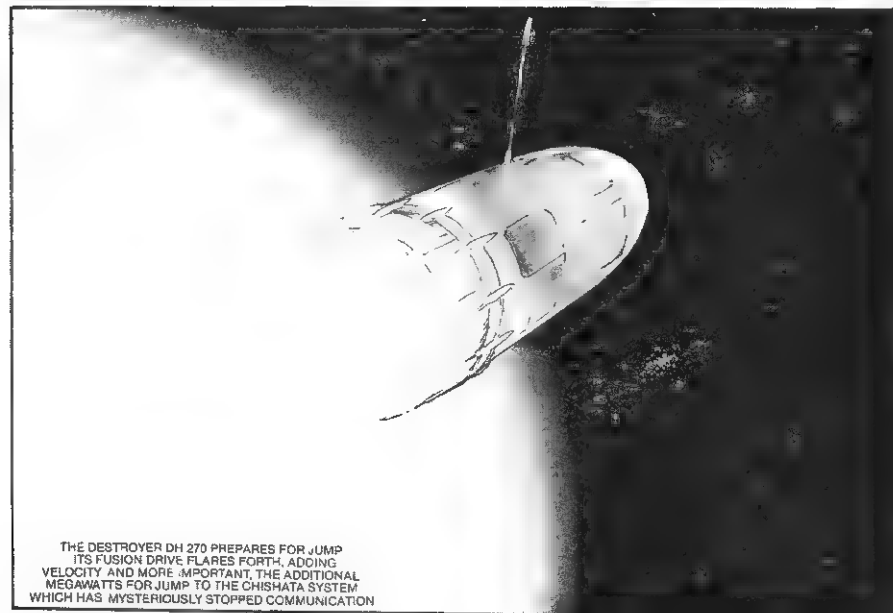
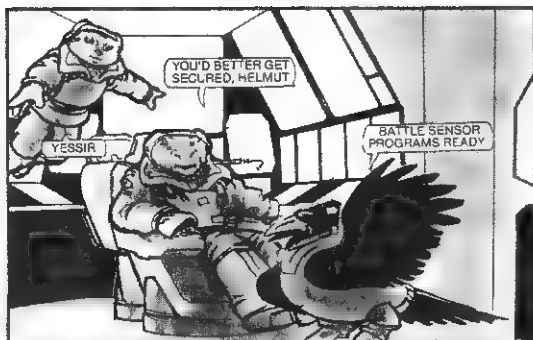


AND IT'S BEEN CONFIRMED THAT AN EDF OFFICER HAS ARRIVED AT THE ZETOO HOME/GARAGE BASE



WHETHER OR NOT THE DORNTHANTII COMMANDER WILL BE TAKING OVER OPERATIONAL COMMAND HAS YET TO BE ESTABLISHED





ALL STATIONS
SIGNAL READY



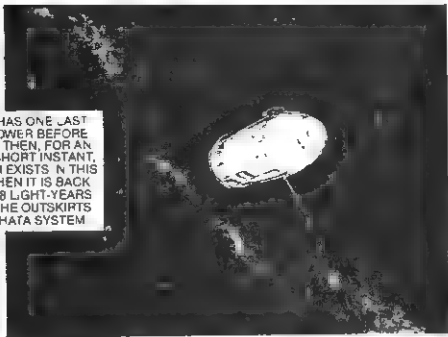
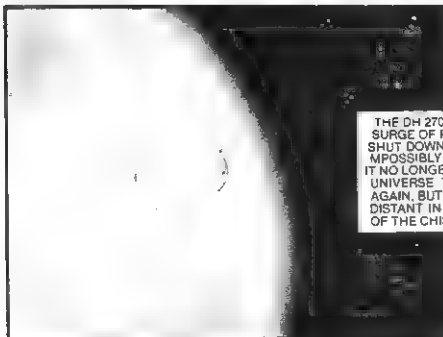
ALL THE ACTIVES ARE DOWN
PASSIVE REMOTES FULL READY.



OKAY SHOWTIME



THE DH 270 HAS ONE LAST
SURGE OF POWER BEFORE
SHUT DOWN THEN, FOR AN
IMPOSSIBLY SHORT INSTANT,
IT NO LONGER EXISTS IN THIS
UNIVERSE THEN IT IS BACK
AGAIN, BUT 18 LIGHT-YEARS
DISTANT IN THE OUTSKIRTS
OF THE CHISHATA SYSTEM



WE'RE HERE!
KEEP YOUR EYES
OPEN GANG



ZIP ON VISUAL OR
GRAVIMETRICS
BUT WE'RE STILL A
LONG WAY OFF



THERE'S NO EM
TRAFFIC AT ALL
TOO QUIET

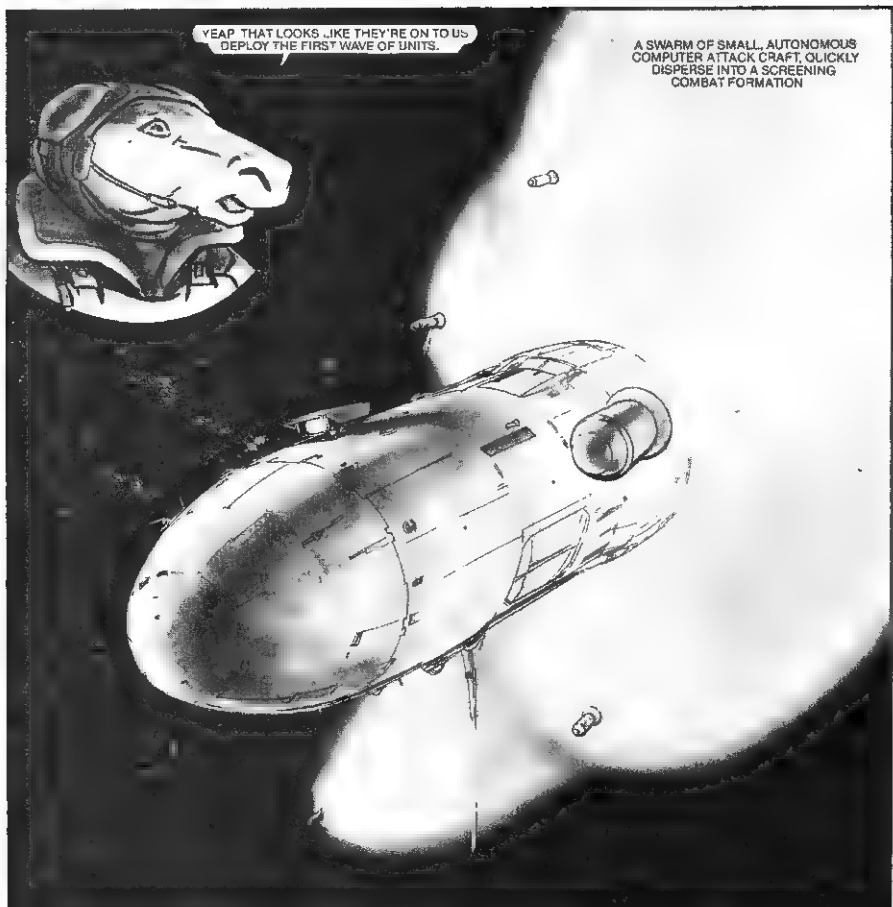


HY MAYBAPS WE
ARE YET UNDETECTED



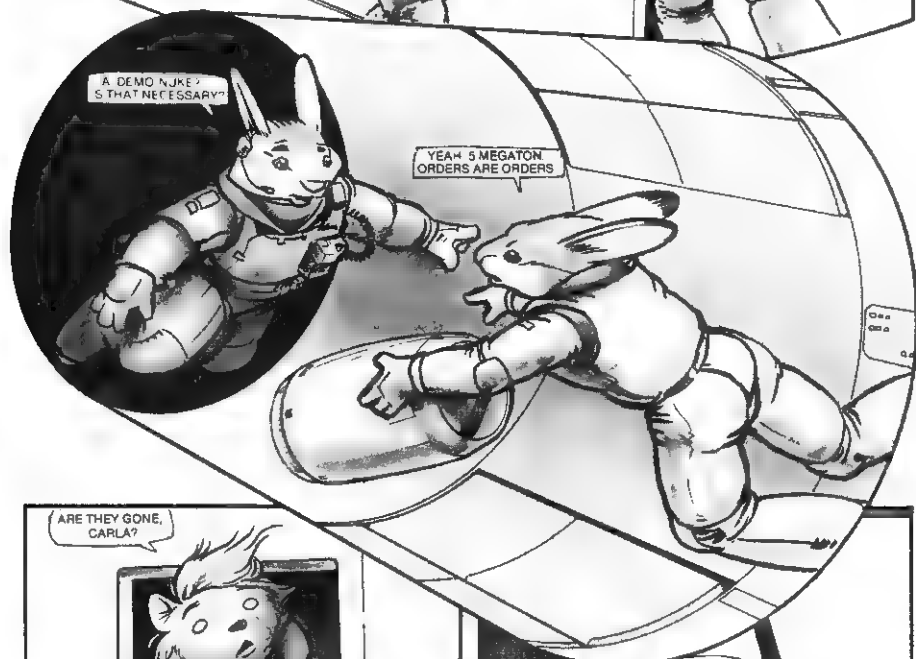
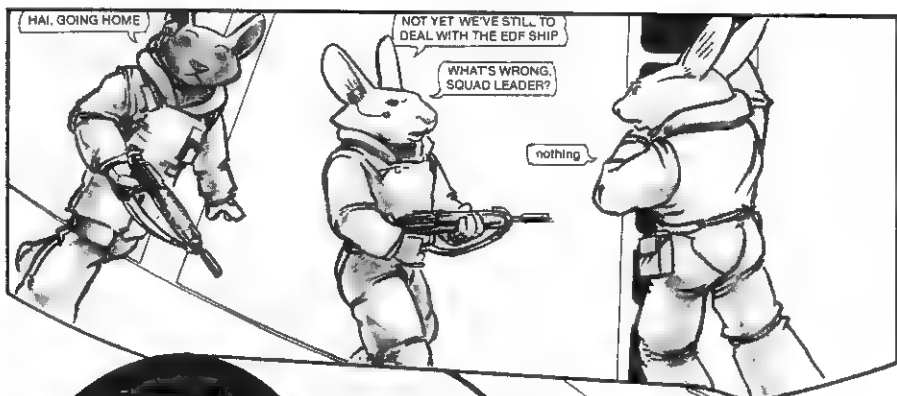


I'VE GOT AN ENERGY FLARE.
LOOKS LIKE A HEAVY PROPULSOR.
50 KILOTONS AT 11 METERS PER
SECOND. SOME SMALLER BLIPS TOO.
PROBABLY ATTACK RPVs.



YEAH THAT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ON TO US.
DEPLOY THE FIRST WAVE OF UNITS.

A SWARM OF SMALL, AUTONOMOUS
COMPUTER ATTACK CRAFT, QUICKLY
DISPERSE INTO A SCREENING
COMBAT FORMATION





AND THERE'S AN EDF SHIP!
WE'RE SAVED



HELLO! EDF SHIP!
THIS IS REFINERY STATION KN



HEY, CAP! I GOT PART OF A
TRANSMISSION FROM ONE
OF THE STATIONS, THEN
IT WAS DESTROYED.

THERE'S A SHIP CAN'T MAKE
OUT THE SIZE YET BUT IT LOOKS LIKE
IT'S GOING TO TRY FOR AN INTERCEPT



SEE IF YOU CAN RAISE ANY
OF THE OTHER STATIONS

GET A TEAM READY
TO GO IN AND CHECK THINGS OUT
WE'LL ACCELERATE AFTER THE HEAVY



WE'LL HAVE A 7 DAY DELAY UNTIL WE
MEET THE INTERCEPT AND ANOTHER
15 PLUS FOR THE HEAVY

YEAH AND THE
RESCUE TEAM'LL
TAKE AT LEAST A
WEEK OF HEAVY
DECELERATION
TO GET TO THE
STATIONS

BETTER SEND OUT
SOME PROBES TO HELP
SPEED UP THE SEARCH

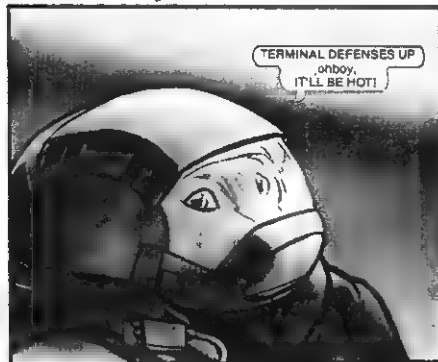
THE FIRST OF THE ATTACK DRONES MAKE CONTACT, AND AT THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS PER SECOND, CAN DO LITTLE MORE THAN RAM EACH OTHER IN MUTUAL ANNIHILATION



HEADS UP PEOPLE
CONTACT IN JUST A
FEW MINUTES



TERMINAL DEFENSES UP
ohboy,
IT'LL BE HOT!

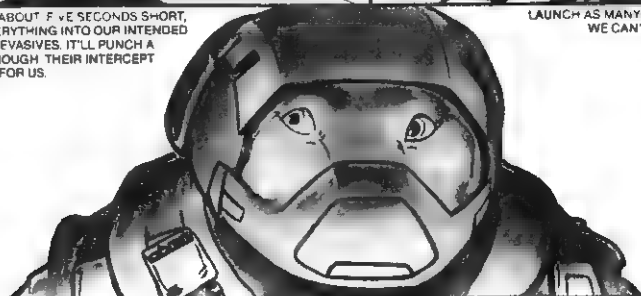


THEY'LL BE EXPECTING SOME
EXOTIC EVASIVES FROM US,
WHICH'LL BE JUST FINE

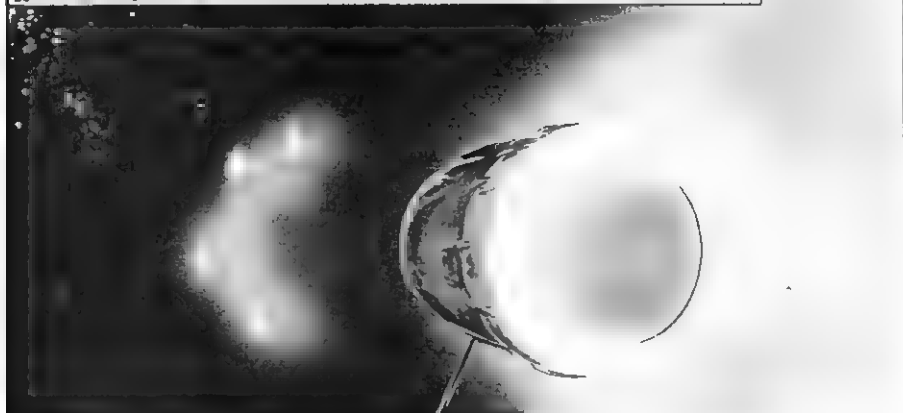


THEO AT ABOUT FIVE SECONDS SHORT,
DUMP EVERYTHING INTO OUR INTENDED
PATH. NO EVASIVES. IT'LL PUNCH A
HOLE THROUGH THEIR INTERCEPT
PATTERN FOR US.

LAUNCH AS MANY INTERCEPTORS AS YOU CAN,
WE CAN'T ALLOW THEM TO ATTACK THE
RESCUE TEAM.



THE EARLIER DETONATIONS WERE MERE FLICKERS OF LIGHT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS DISTANT BUT AT THE PROMISED SPEEDS A FEW SECONDS BRING THE NEXT WAVE ON YET A FEW THOUSAND KILOMETERS OUT



THEN THEY ARE JOINED EVEN THE HIGH SPEED INTERCEPTORS CAN BARELY LEAVE THEIR LAUNCHERS BEFORE STRIKING OPPOSING WEAPONS



THE ENCOUNTER LASTS LESS THAN A SECOND AND THE BATTLE COMPUTERS WOULD HAVE TO REPLAY THE ACTION A HUNDRED FOLD SLOWER FOR ANY ORGANIC TO COMPREHEND







shiss! HOW BAD WAS HE HIT?



I SAW THE COMMANDER BEFORE THEY GOT HIM. NTO A 'DOC. IT GOT HIM LOW IN THE BACK, PROBABLY ONLY A FEW GRAMS, BUT—



HOURS LATER

REPAIRS GOING WELL,
I TRUST?

SURE SIR, WE'LL BE FULLY
IN TIME FOR THE FREIGHTER.

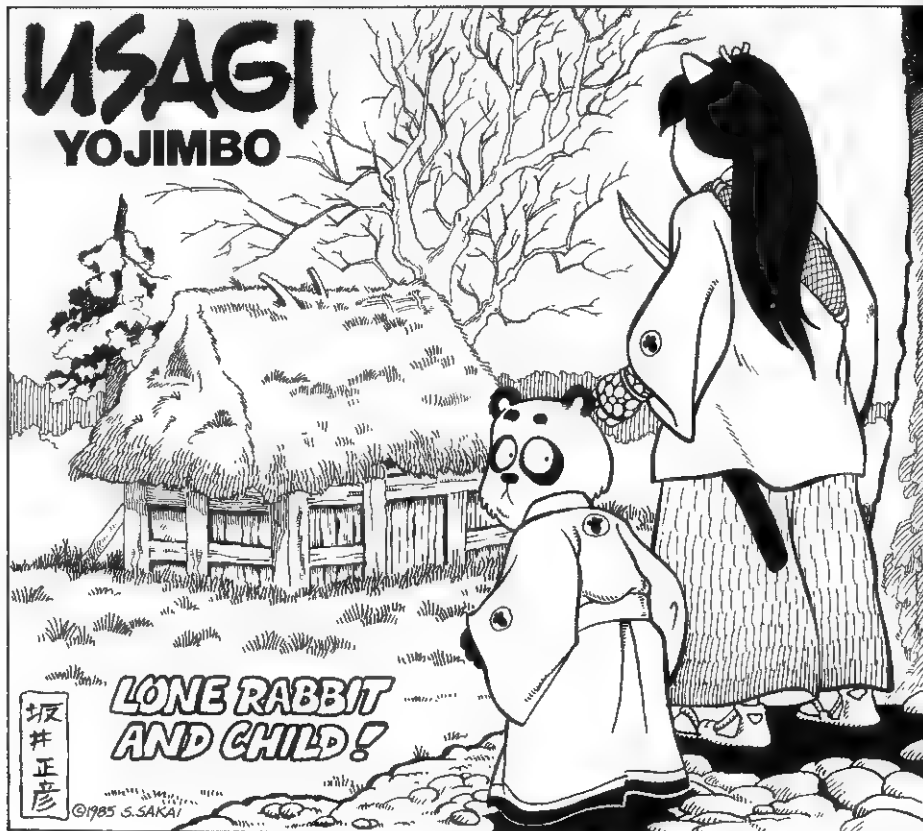
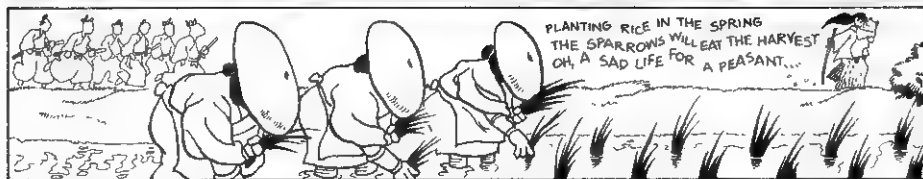
YEAH,
ANY STRATEGY.

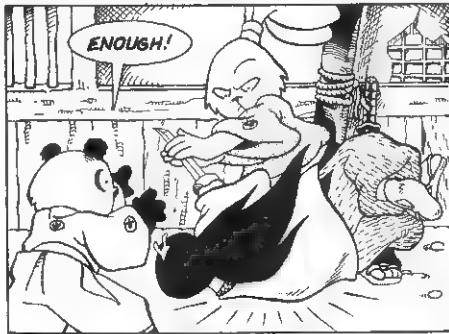
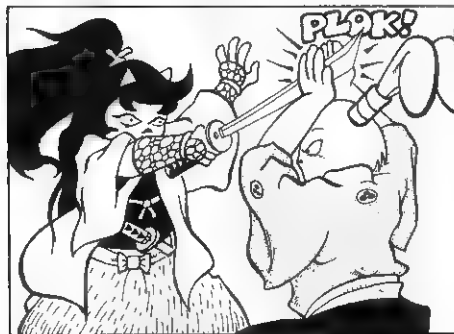
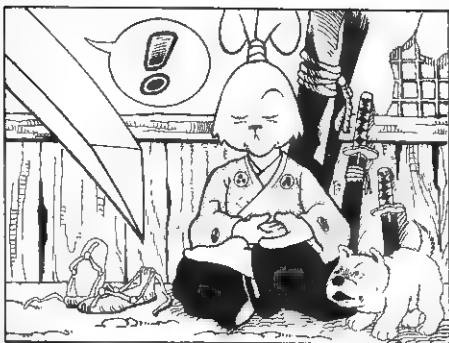
WE'LL TRY A CAPTURE. THERE COULD BE PRISONERS ABOARD. THE
REPUBLICANS COULDN'T HAVE BLOWN UP THAT STATION WITH
EVERYONE STILL THERE.

I DON'T KNOW, SKIP THE SEARCH TEAM STILL HASN'T RAISED
ANYONE FROM ANY OF THE OTHER STATIONS.

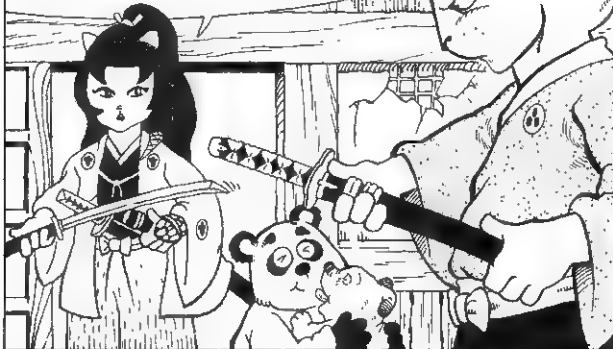
PUTER SAYS THERE'S ABOUT
TEN OTHER OPERATIONS OUT THERE,
AND YOU JUST CAN'T BREAK EVERY RADIO.

WELL, LET'S GET THRUSTING AND
FIND OUT WHAT'S ABOARD.





I AM CALLED **TOMOE AME**. THIS IS MY LORD, **NORIYUKI** OF THE GEISHU CLAN! HIS FATHER HAD RECENTLY DIED LEAVING NORIYUKI HIS SOLE HEIR. WE ARE ON OUR WAY TO EDO, THE CAPITAL, SO THAT THE SHOGUN CAN ESTABLISH HIM AS NEW CLAN LEADER!

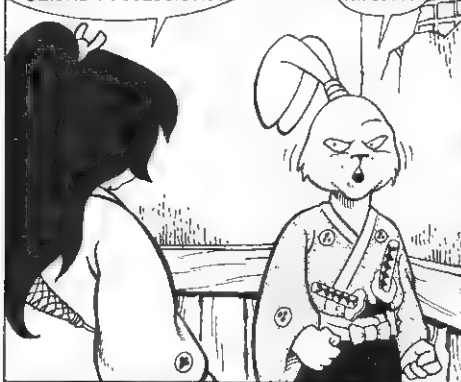


THREE TIMES HAVE WE BEEN ATTACKED! NOW ALL OF MY LORD'S ESCORTS, SAVE MYSELF, ARE DEAD... IF NORIYUKI IS KILLED, THE GEISHU CLAN WILL BE ABOLISHED AND ITS HOLDINGS DISTRIBUTED!



WE BELIEVE LORD HIKIJI IS BEHIND THESE ATTEMPTS BECAUSE HE DESIRES THE GEISHU POSSESSIONS.

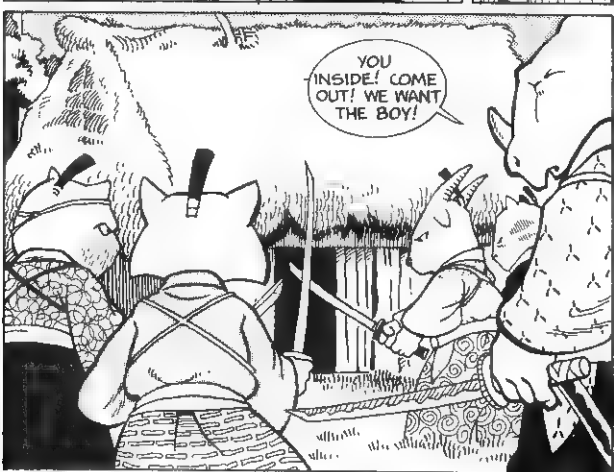
HIKIJ?!



ARE YOU A SUPPORTER OF HIKI... ❄



YOU INSIDE! COME OUT! WE WANT THE BOY!

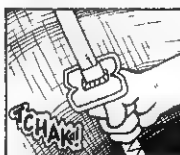


GO AWAY!

I JUST WOKE UP. I'M IN A BAD MOOD!

WHO ARE YOU?







WE ARE IN YOUR DEBT, USAGI-SAN.

WE MUST GO NOW! THERE IS NO NEED TO INTRUDE UPON YOU ANY FURTHER!

I DOUBT THESE ARE THE LAST OF THE ASSASSINS!

I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU.



AS YOU WISH. MY LORD WILL HIRE YOU AS A YOUIMBO (BODYGUARD) UNTIL WE REACH THE GEISHU EDO PALACE!

AGREED!



EVENING...

I STILL THINK WE SHOULD HAVE BRAVED THE STORM INSTEAD OF COMING TO THIS INN!

I MUST SEE TO MY LORD'S COMFORT AS WELL AS HIS SAFETY! BESIDES, THE RIVER WE MUST CROSS WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS TO FERRY TONIGHT!



COME... LET US FORMALLY INTRODUCE OURSELVES.

I AM TOMOE AME, DAUGHTER OF TATSUTARO, THE FOUNDER OF THE FALLING RAIN SCHOOL OF SWORDSMANSHIP. IT WAS HE WHO TAUGHT ME ALL I KNOW.

THREE YEARS AGO, I BECAME A RETAINER TO THE GEISHU CLAN TO WHOM MY FAMILY HAS BEEN LOYAL FOR TEN GENERATIONS...

...AND NOW IT IS MY DUTY TO PREVENT LORD HIKIJI FROM TAKING OVER OUR CLAN'S POSSESSIONS!



I AM MIYAMOTO USAGI, A RONIN.
MY SWORD-MASTER WAS KATSUICHI
WHO REBELLED AGAINST THE EIGHT
KYOTO STYLES TO DEVELOP HIS OWN
TECHNIQUES. HE WAS A HERMIT
LIVING IN THE MOUNTAINS WHEN
I BECAME HIS DISCIPLE.

PERHAPS
SOMEDAY YOU
WILL HONOR
ME WITH A
MATCH TO
SEE WHOSE
STYLE IS
SUPERIOR.

IT WOULD
BE MY HONOR.

AFTER THE DEATH OF KATSUICHI, I BECAME
A RETAINER TO A NORTHERN CLAN. HIKUJI
COVETED MY LORD'S LANDS. A BATTLE
WAS FOUGHT AT ADACHIGAHARA PLAIN
IN WHICH MY LORD WAS KILLED. SINCE
THEN, I HAVE BEEN A *SHUGYOSHA*
(STUDENT WARRIOR).

SO THAT IS
WHY YOU KNOW
OF HIKUJI!

MORNING

THE DANGER IS GREATEST
NOW THAT WE'RE NEARING EDO.
WE'LL AVOID THE MAIN
HIGHWAY AND TAKE THE
MOUNTAIN PATH FROM
UBAGAMI TO GOMBEI
PASS.

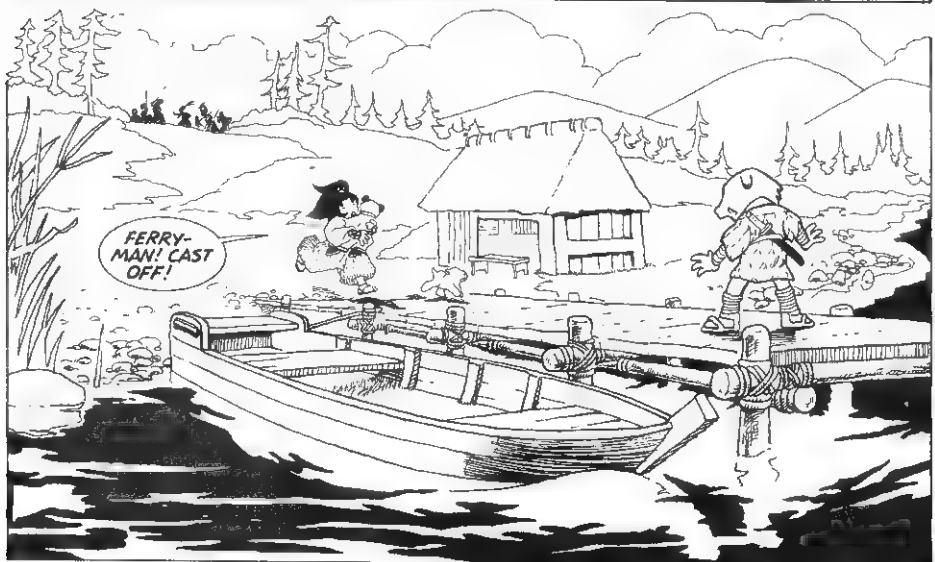
GOOD IDEA. WE
SHOULD REACH THE
CAPITAL IN A FEW
DAYS.

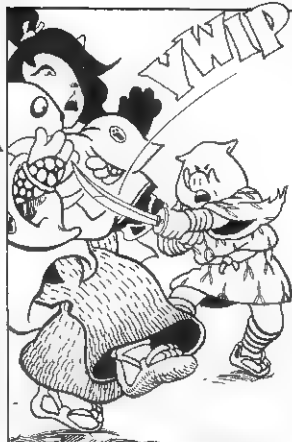
BUT

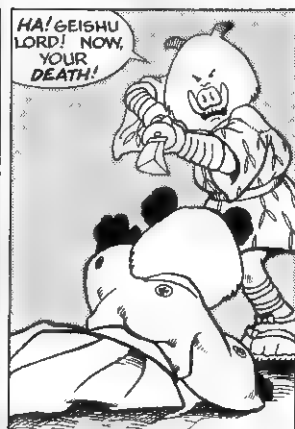
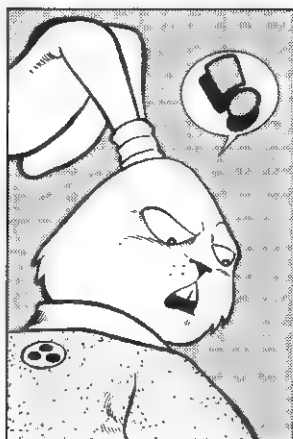
LAST NIGHT'S RAINS
HAVE MADE THE RIVER
TOO DANGEROUS
TO TRY A
CROSSING!

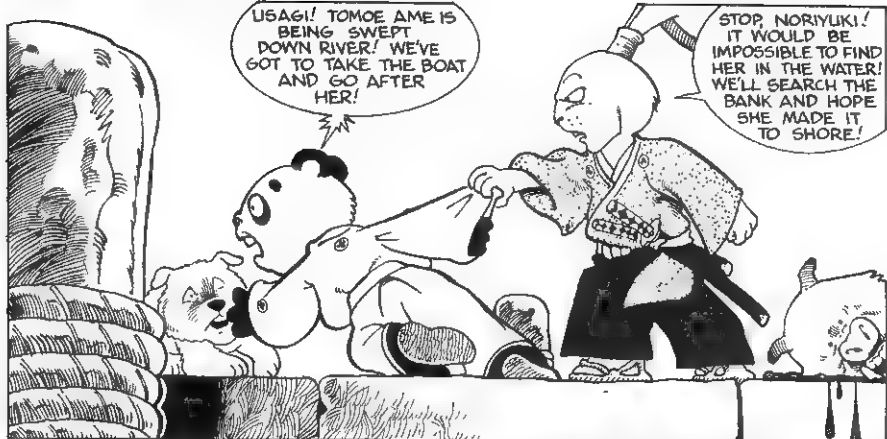
WE HAVE NO CHOICE...
WE MUST RISK THE
DANGER!

GRRR...











GROO © 1985 Sergio Aragones

DEAR STAN, YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE JAPANESE TALES, JAPANESE ART AND JAPANESE HISTORY. JAPANESE FOOD AND JAPANESE COMICS!

YOUR USAGI YOJIMBO IN ALBEDO IS A PLEASURE TO SEE AND READ. AND YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF JAPANESE WEAPONRY, COSTUMES AND BUSHIDO, MAKES IT UNIQUE. PLEASE CONTINUE, AND NEVER LOOSE YOUR ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE GREAT JOB YOU'RE DOING FOR GROO...



P S

INCLUDED A DRAWING. I IMAGINE IF ALL THE RABBITS IN GROO'S WORLD WERE LIKE USAGI, HE'LL STABBE TO DEATH!

In case you haven't yet caught on, Stan is the letterer for Aragones's GROO as well as a crackerjack commercial artist. Now if I could only find out what he thinks of the rest of the issue.

By the way, I enjoyed Albedo # 2, at least the Erma Felna strip and *The Lion and the Unicorn*. Usagi Yojimbo was just a little too serious, almost a straight Japanese horror story played with animal masks. I think it's a strip of excellent potential, and might be improved if Mr. Sakai were willing to put a little more tongue in his cheek. I'm not talking about making Usagi the rabbit equivalent of *Samurai Cat*, just the sort of stuff we saw in his Albedo 1 strip, or else some of the macabre humor those old Japanese print makers put into their "grotesque" prints. I do have a couple of compliments for Sakai:

1. His strip did look like a comic strip version of many Japanese animal prints (with humanoid, clothes-wearing animals) I've seen in art books. That gave the strip a certain flavor it would otherwise not have had.

2. A petty detail, but he had the good taste to call his monster a "goblin," rather than a "demon," as far too many fantasy authors do. A demon is a spirit-being, not a physical one, and should require more than a good swordsman just to fight it off.

Charles Garofalo
WAYNE, NEW JERSEY

Albedo #2 is subtitled "anthropomorphics." Basically, that's what is usually called "funny-animal stories," stories in which animals act like humans. The cover story is Stan Sakai's excellently done adventure of a Samurai rabbit; it's not a funny story, and it would work just as well with people. Gallacci's own "Erma Felna" would, I think, work better with people, but Gallacci wants to do anthropomorphics, so, in the words of Mark Twain, I say let him.

The prize of the issue of a four-page interpretation of "The Lion and the Unicorn" by Lela Dowling. It is gorgeously drawn and funny to boot. I know no higher praise than this: it reminds me — favorably — of Walt Kelly's interpretations of nursery rhymes in Dell's *Christmas with Mother Goose* and *Easter with Mother Goose*. As far as I'm concerned, these four pages are worth the cost of an issue by themselves. Yeah, half a buck a page. Cheap at the price.

Don Thompson's Comic
Guide review column in the
Comics Buyer's Guide
No 587 February 15, 1985

I am delighted with ALBEDO NR 2 and happy to see NR 3 (and future issues) under way. In regards to Don Thompson's review — if you didn't use recognizable "Cute & Cuddly" earth-type animals — you would most likely have to use "Space Grotties" creatures such as in Marvel's Alien Legion, etc., which are not likable (note that the "Hero" has an almost Human face) or a mix of Humans & other things with the Humans as the "Good Guys." If you used just Humans (or the above mix), your strip would be

one out of too many others in this vein and you probably would NOT have got past issue #1. (I think one of the major reasons that Josh Quagmire's "Cutie Bunney" and "Space Gophers" work so well is that Humans are treated as subordinate characters and have to "earn" their own following — fanwise.)

David Alan Potter

DARIEN, CT

So Erma is considered to come from a decadent and repulsive society by the locals of Ekosiak, eh? Since Ekosiak is obviously a colony world, this feeling about Erma's homeworld is to be expected. Historically — the more remote the colony, the more the colonists needed to be independent (or to depend on themselves) for survival, and as people become more independent, they tend to think less and less of the "motherland." It would be nice, tho, if you could spare some room in the story to illustrate this, but I don't think you will. After reading #1, it seems that you want the reader to *think* along with the story, as opposed to just reading the story. I say this because, after the beautiful way the Lepine Republic took Deryon, the EDF would have been *extremely* hard pressed to defeat them — if the Republican forces had been properly reinforced! No military machine that could execute such a smooth operation would leave its forces in a position like the Republican forces were. Where were the aircraft to drive away the EDF gunships and assault boats? Where was the ECM equipment to jam and confuse the combat controller's signals? Why were there only a "few" point defense units? Where the hell were the Republic command ships? For that matter, where was even *one* Republic warship? I've a strong feeling that Deryon is the Aleutian Islands and Ekosiak is Midway Island in the eyes of the Lepines, as it was to the Japanese in WWII. The whole Deryon action was intended to draw EDF attention to an area where nothing is going to happen — in the near future. Some questions for you: Why is the EDF multi-species while the Republic is (apparently) single-species? Did each of the species shown so far evolve on its own world, or did some homeworlds evolve sapient but different species side by side?

Do you think it's an omen of some kind that you've got rabbits for bad guys, but 2 of the 4 backup stories have featured rabbits, and you're getting good plugs from J Quagmire — Cutie Bunny's main man and punching bag?

Also, in your letter, you said the EDF doesn't use fragment grenades, but a "tunable shaped charge" explosive. By use of the word "tunable," does this mean the user of the explosive can "tune" it just before use? I can just see a bunch of grenades with little dials on them.



Speaking of Erma, you've set her quite a task in overcoming sexism and the politics associated with it. It's the same problem a lot of women in the U.S. military will face if we are at war again. The reason women will be pulled from combat situations is not just that in most societies war is men's work, but that the general public is not psychologically prepared to deal with women becoming prisoners of war and the fear that the men assigned with the women would follow their instinctive reactions to protect the women and allow themselves to get shot up. In societies that have had many wars where their very existence was at stake, these sexist ideas have been cast out — the Soviet Union and Israel, for instance. Hopefully it will not take such a drastic situation for the EDF to see Erma's point. I myself believe that if a woman wants to be in a combat unit, her sex should not be the deciding factor, but rather her competence.

Dirk Martine

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA

Gosh, such a letter! And he hit several points dead on. The most important being I don't "tell" the readers everything through expositional dialog or captions. You all are going to have to pay attention to clues and make some extrapolations on your own as to the whos, whats and so forth. As for the belligerent populations, the various species have formed distinct cultures and the Lepines and some related minorities happened to be a bit more divergent. As to the origins of species, that's more complicated. The entire population, all the hundred-odd species, effectively woke up one morning to be aware that they had a planet-wide technic civilization on their hands. No history, no archeological past, and little biochemically in common with the biosphere of their planet. They do, however, have a lot in common with each other, genetically. I'll leave it to you all to speculate on the myriad explanations that have developed in the last few centuries.

ALBEDO is really gorgeous, especially Stan Sakai and of course your own stuff. Erma Felna and her adventures are beautiful, beautiful. The halftones in #2 are really breathtakingly rendered, lovely lighting. Wonderfully realized characters and backgrounds. Good drama, too. So important. Hardly anybody cares about it, it seems sometimes. Glad you do.

Erma Felna is a wonderful character, one of the closest things to a real woman I've seen in adventure comics yet. Comics as it stands today is an almost exclusively male pastime, and the childish way in which women are usually treated is partly why. I hope EF continues for a long time, because comics really needs women like her, strong sympathetic whole characters as a relief from the silly male fantasies that pass for women throughout most of the comics universe.

OMAHA: I can't regard OMAHA as "unnecessarily explicit." The sex in my stories isn't besides the point, it is the point. Sex is my theme: how people's sexuality reflects and affects the way they live and interact, and what a mess people and society usually make of it. I'm trying to show real sex and real personal problems in the course of my soap opera. As to sex being "necessary" or "unnecessary" — sex is "unnecessary" too much of the time, that is, not too solidly connected to the rest of our lives. The irony is that it is so important to virtually everyone past puberty that it's unrealistic to ignore it, but most of us (especially men) pretty much do nonetheless.

On sex in comics generally. It's not sex that should be fought but the ongoing objectification of women. I find the female icons in HEAVY METAL and the disgusting rape fantasies portrayed in many small press titles degrading to women in a way unlike Omaha, who screws in print but does so from her own motives and not just to act out male desires. That's also what's so positive about Erma Felna: she doesn't exist just to amuse men, she has her own reasons for being. OMAHA has many women fans, and I'm sure Erma does, too.

Reed Wailer / OMAHA the Cat Dancer

c/o SteelDragon Press

P.O. Box 7253

Powderhorn Station

Minneapolis, MN 55407

If you don't mind friendly, but explicit sex scenes in an otherwise engaging anthropomorphic story series, grab up a dozen or so copies of Reed's OMAHA THE CAT DANCER I've got to, on the one hand, agree with Reed, but considering the reactions I've already gotten from the readership, I'm very conscious of all the ulterior motives that some of the readership has regarding such. Complaints aren't the problem, it's the strange feedback I get from those who like such TOO much. This is, however, not to say that one will never see furry tit or worse, it's just a matter of doing the right thing for the right reasons.

Number 2's stories address a concept very rare in 'funny animal' genre dramatic rather than humorous content. As much as I love to laugh, it's to reflect on the greys and dark sides or reality. Usagi Yojimbo has the atmosphere to draw the reader into the suspense. Erma Felna EDF goes a step farther; as I read, I'm seeing a form of reality through the senses of Erma while sharing both personal and general thoughts. The general serious tone of work plus the detail and clarity of the art and story effectively allows the reader to believe one is experiencing the lives of actual beings not just human clowns wearing animal skins. Usagi and Erma serve good drama as Flinch Gideon, Nilson Groundthumper, and 'Bad Rubber' well serve humor. I love it all.

To finish, I would love technical detail and personal background to incorporate into GDW's Traveller game. For prime examples, what is Erma's age and rank, what are the overall dimensions of the gunboats from no. 1, what is its armament and are they grav or jet/rocket propulsion.

Tom Helms
SKIPPACK, PA

I've gotten a lot of letters about gaming, but for the time being, haven't had the opportunity to do much about it. As things progress, I will, as I've been promising, publish some manner of technical pub to answer a lot of these questions. Erma had, at the beginning of NR 1, just turned 26 and now in NR 3, has the rank of Squadron Commander, roughly the rank and responsibility of a Major or Lieutenant-Colonel. The assault craft in NR 1 are around 40 meters long and use vectored thrust fusion propulsion.

I've never written a LoC before, but several good reasons prompt me to do so now. First off is the excellent quality of your work. In #2 I loved the collage of Erma's thoughts. And the page where Secretary Shatoo and Dea-Htuhok find out that Erma is a CTC instructor is superb! The composition

and technique of each panel is some of the finest artwork I've ever seen in a comic. (You are't selling originals by any chance?) Speaking of Dea and the Secretary, they're marvelous characters and I hope we will see more of them in the future.

Sakai's Usagi Yojimbo is great! His work is very clean and his battle scenes betray an intimate knowledge of Bushido.
Eric Elliott
SUNNYVALE, CA

Your artwork on "Erma Felna" is even better than before. I really admire your use of grey washes and white highlights, especially in the modeling of the figures and the light effects. The way you draw "anthropomorphics" is great; reminds me of Walt Kelly.

Stan Sakai's "Usagi" story was pretty nifty, too; I really like his artwork. The page numbers in Japanese characters was a nice touch. Lela Dowling's "Lion and the Unicorn" four-pager seemed a humorous departure from her usual subject matter, and was very well done.

All in all an enjoyable book, and a fine follow-up to *Albedo* #1! Keep up the good work!

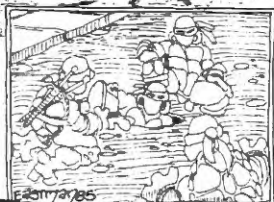
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As always, buy TMNT every chance you get. And CUTEY BUNNY, don't forget CUTEY BUNNY, even if I didn't print one of his letters. Be on the lookout for Groat & Konkle's EQUINE too, and let me know what it looks like. I haven't seen it yet either. I already mentioned OMAHA, what else? UNCLE JAM can be awfully interesting. It's a freebie neat newspaper put out by Phil Yeh and that crazy L.A. crowd. Send 'em a buck or so and I'd assume they'd poot you out a copy and some subscription rates. Write Fragments West, 3908 E. 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90814.



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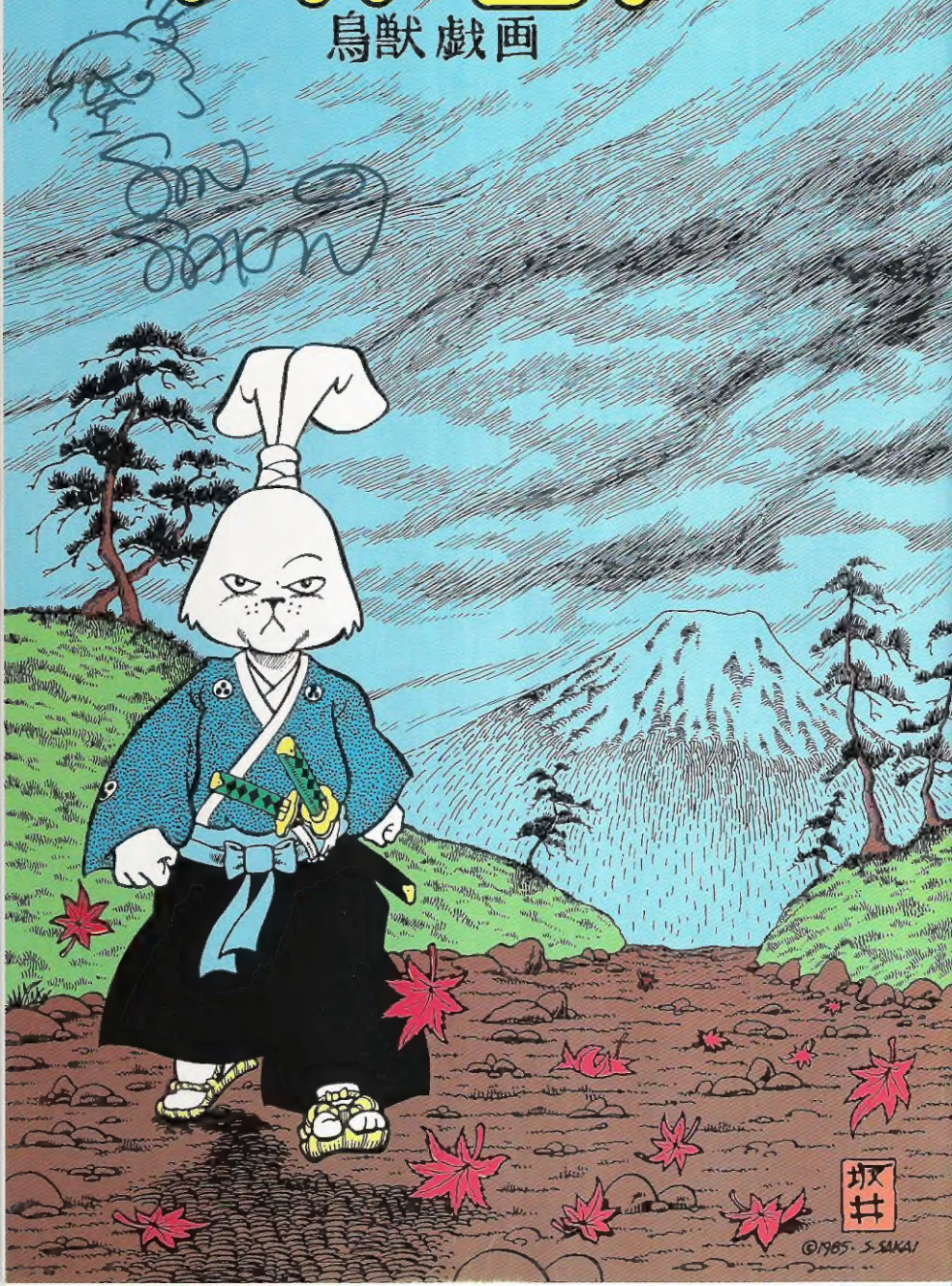
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